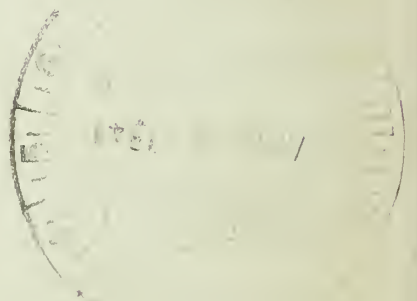


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WLW
CINCINNATI

FORTUNES WASHED AWAY

115
P.M. - E.S.T.

A SERIES OF DRAMATIZATIONS OF BETTER LAND USE.

No. 173

"STRADLEY FINISHES WHAT HE STARTS"

August 16, 1941

ORGAN THEME: DEEP RIVER

VOICES (recorded)

We took it for granted that land was everlasting;

We said ownership of the land insured security.

Tools would wear out, men would die --

But the land would remain.

ORGAN: ABRUPT DISCORD

ANNOUNCER (cold)

Fortunes Washed Away!

ORGAN: DEEP RIVER, fading behind...

ANNOUNCER

Drive, or walk, or meander through Licking County, Ohio -- among the many streams that unite to form the Licking River, for they spread over the county like the fingers of the hand. Go past the sandstone cliffs of the "black hand narrows", past the Flint Ridge that extends eastward toward Zanesville, past Newark, home of Johnny Clem, the drummer boy of Shiloh who was the youngest person ever to bear arms in battle. Go south of Newark, and you will pass what was once an old Indian cornfield, pass what was once a forest in all its native majesty and beauty, a forest of venerable antiquity. Elias Hughes and John Ratliff came here, once, among the brilliance of autumnal foliage and the splendor of the vernal flowers. They were pioneers of Licking County.

ORGAN: SEGUE into AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL

ANNOUNCER

"Ask who of all our race have shown
The largest heart, the kindest hand;
Ask who with lavish hands have strown
Rich blessings over all the land;
Ask who have sown that we might reap
The harvest, rich with seventy years;
And every heart and every voice
Make answer: Licking's pioneers."

ORGAN: UP AND OUT

ANNOUNCER

The scene of the 173rd consecutive episode of "Fortunes Washed Away" is the farm of E. H. Stradley, who farms the steep hills of Mary Anne township. Ed Stradley began his farming career in 1904. One day he came into the store of Roe Emerson in Newark...(FADE)

SOUND: Cash register...

EMERSON

Thanks, Charley...and come again. Oh, hello Ed.

STRADLEY

Morning, Mr. Emerson

EMERSON

What's on your mind today...a new suit, a pair of overalls, or just the time of day?

STRADLEY

Kind of windy out, isn't it?

EMERSON

Oh, yes...not as windy as the Burlington storm, though?

STRADLEY

What was that?

EMERSON

A long before our time, Ed. Back in 1829 or '30, I think it was. I do remember folks telling how much it blowed.

STRADLEY

Quite a lot, huh?

EMERSON

I'll say. Just for example, a cow belonging to Colonel Wait Wright was blown 80 rods and left unhurt....

STRADLEY

Unhurt?

EMERSON

Yep. Funny thing though, she was surrounded by so much fallen timber that it took several hours to chop her out.

STRADLEY

Big wind.

EMERSON

Sure was.

STRADLEY (still evasive)

Must have been. Well, I just thought I'd drop in and say howdy, if you weren't busy.

EMERSON

Not too busy. Say! What's this I read in the paper about you winning all those prizes over at Fallsburg?

STRADLEY

Yeah, I guess I was kinda lucky. Dad gave me a couple of calves, and I took good care of them, and, well...they carried off the money.

EMERSON

That's mighty fine. You're just like your father, Ed...you're going to be a real farmer.

STRADLEY

I hope to be. I've got just enough conceit in me to think I can make a go of it.

EMERSON

Why don't you buy a farm of your own? You're young, you're about to get married, I hear, and there's a real future in farming in Licking County. Sometimes I wish I'd never been in the clothing business -- I'd like to get out on a farm myself, and take it apart and see what makes it tick.

STRADLEY

Why, Mr. Emerson...that's what I came in to see you about. I've got my eye on a farm over near Wilkins' Corner. It's gonna be put up at a sheriff's sale.

EMERSON

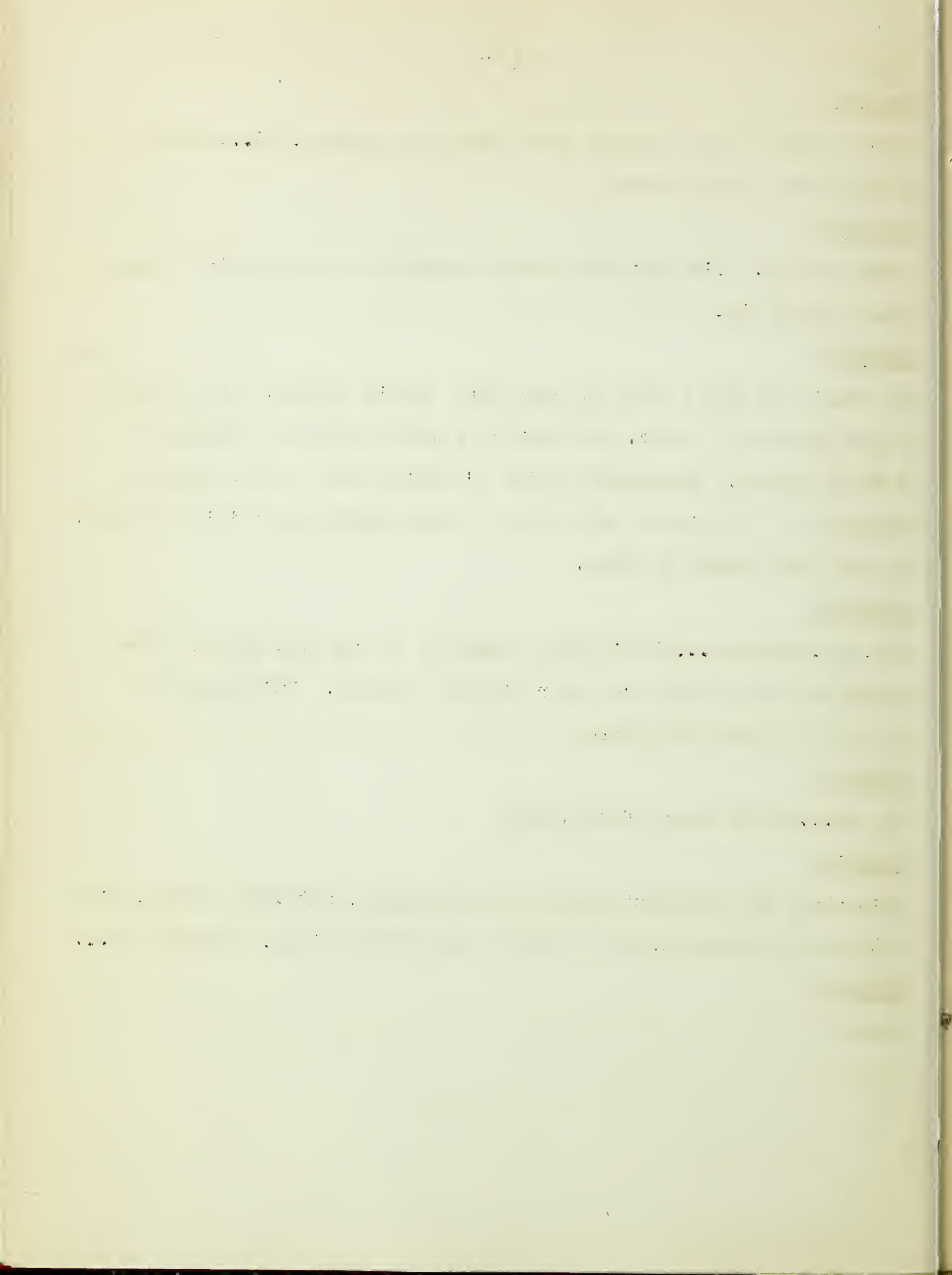
Oh, oh...one of those farms, huh?

STRADLEY

It's about the sorriest farm in the township, but like I said, I've got enough conceit in me to think I can build it up. Trouble is...

EMERSON

Money?



STRADLEY

Yes, sir. It's only 88 acres, and so washed and gullied you can hide a team of horses in every hollow. It won't cost much, but... well, I'm just a poor boy looking for a start. I tried the bank, Mr. Emerson, but when I told them about the kind of farm it is, they didn't see their way clear to loaning me any money. I thought that maybe, you...well, if you want to take a chance....

EMERSON

I see.

STRADLEY

I'll work hard, Mr. Emerson.

EMERSON

A worn out farm.

STRADLEY

It can be built up. I know it can.

EMERSON (chuckling)

I think you're a pretty good gamble, Stradley. I like your spunk.

STRADLEY

You mean that.

EMERSON

....yes, you go to the sheriff's sale, and see what happens. If you can buy the farm, I think I'll be able to help you out.

STRADLEY

Gee, Mr. Emerson! Why, in just a few years...

EMERSON (good naturedly)

Get out of here! You go to that sale!

ORGAN: BRIEF BRIDGE

POUND

Stradley, looks like you've bought yourself a farm.

STRADLEY

I'll say I have, Mr. Pound. It's been sold twice for taxes.

(LAUGHS) Maybe I'll be the next one.

POUND

Seriously, I wouldn't be at all surprised. Not that I'm trying to discourage you, just when you're getting started.

STRADLEY

Oh, you won't discourage me. I'm just pig-headed enough to think I can build it up.

POUND

You can't make it any worse. Why, you were the only one that bid on it.

STRADLEY

Who else but a poor guy like me would?

POUND

Well, confidentially, Ed...I had a notion to buy it myself.

STRADLEY

You did?

POUND

Sure. It's belonged to the Pound family, off and on you know, and I sorta wanted to keep it that way. But I knew you were a young kid wanting a farm, and a family, and I decided that maybe you ought to have a chance at it. Besides, I've got plenty of work on my own farm. But what do you plan to do with it?

THE FIRST PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION OF ENGLAND

BY JOHN CALVIN

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE SECOND PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION OF ENGLAND

BY JOHN CALVIN

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE THIRD PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION OF ENGLAND

BY JOHN CALVIN

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE FOURTH PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION OF ENGLAND

BY JOHN CALVIN

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE FIFTH PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION OF ENGLAND

BY JOHN CALVIN

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE SIXTH PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION OF ENGLAND

BY JOHN CALVIN

STRADLEY

Here's the way I figure. It hasn't got a fence on the place. The woods have been cut off. The soil has washed so much that folks have been saying that rocks are growing on it. The thing to do is to go to work...build up the fertility...build up the fertility, or get ready to move out.

POUND

You're a thinker, Stradley. You'll never get in a rut, I can tell that.

STRADLEY

Well, if you ever get in a rut and can't get out, the best thing to do is to make a better rut out of it.

ORGAN: BRIEF BRIDGE

ANNOUNCER

Oh, many a young man would have looked at the poor soil and turned to something else that appeared easier or had more promise of immediate income. But Stradley thought that poor land could be improved, that hard work and careful planning would bring success, even to a little hill farm that had been neglected sadly. It was hard work...(FADE)

SOUND: Man hammering board with hammer.....

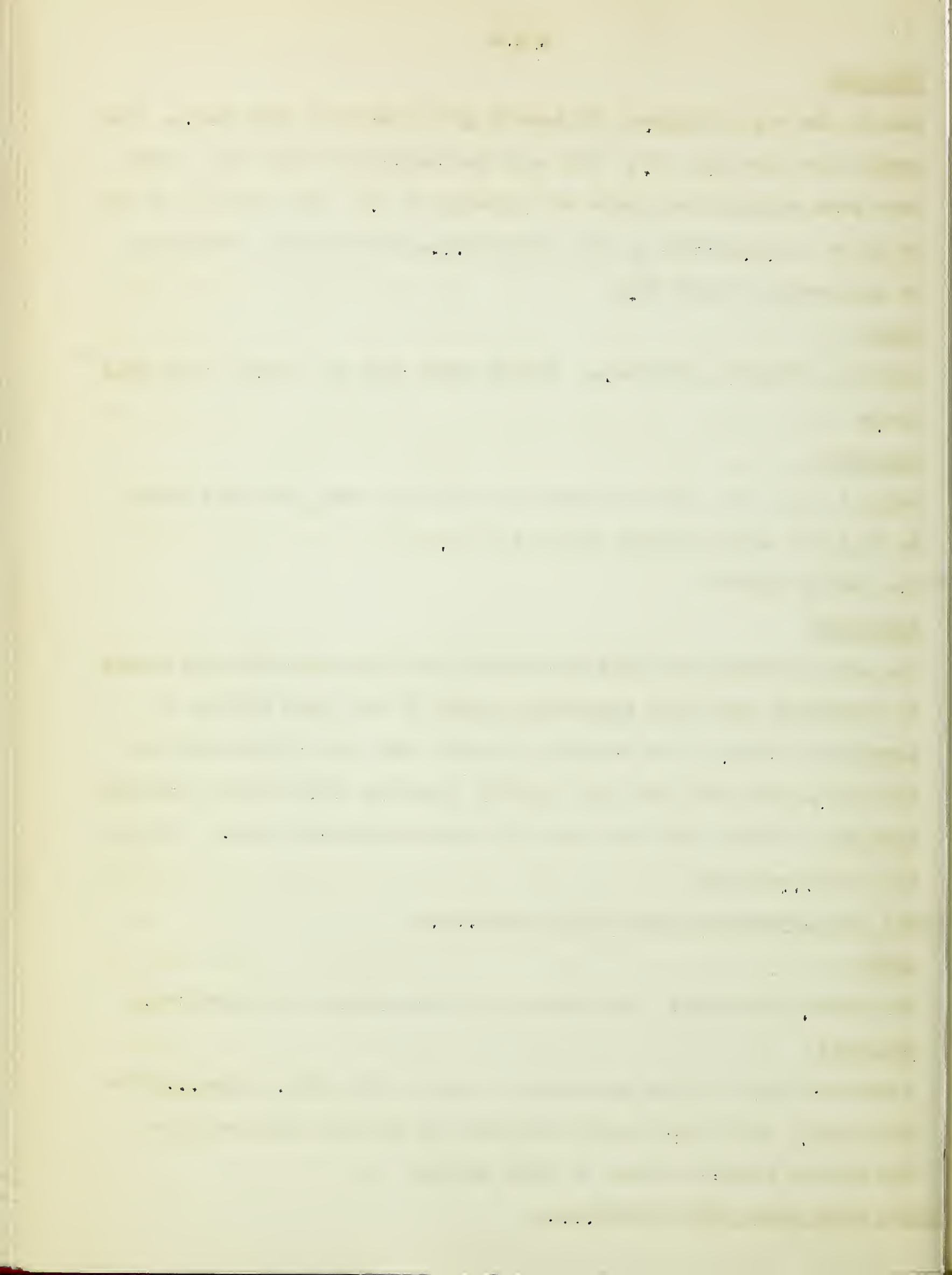
POUND

Man alive, Stradley! You believe in doing things the hard way.

STRADLEY

I couldn't get my lime spreader up here on the hill, Amsey...it's too steep. So I just hauled the lime up on this sled, and now the blamed thing's trying to fall apart.

SOUND: More licks with hammer.....



STRADLEY

There! That ought to hold for another rod or two, anyhow.

POUND

You really go in for lime, don't you?

STRADLEY

I've seen what it will do. My gosh, the first year I farmed this place, the corn was so poor I could carry all the shocks under my arm. Only got three little loads of redtop hay. But it's getting better every year. Yes sir, the man that discovered lime ought to have a monument. Why, look at that field over there.

POUND

By George! The last time I saw it, it didn't have anything but poverty grass.

STRADLEY

Poverty grass and broomsedge. But if you'll go over there, you'll see the bluegrass coming in mighty fast.

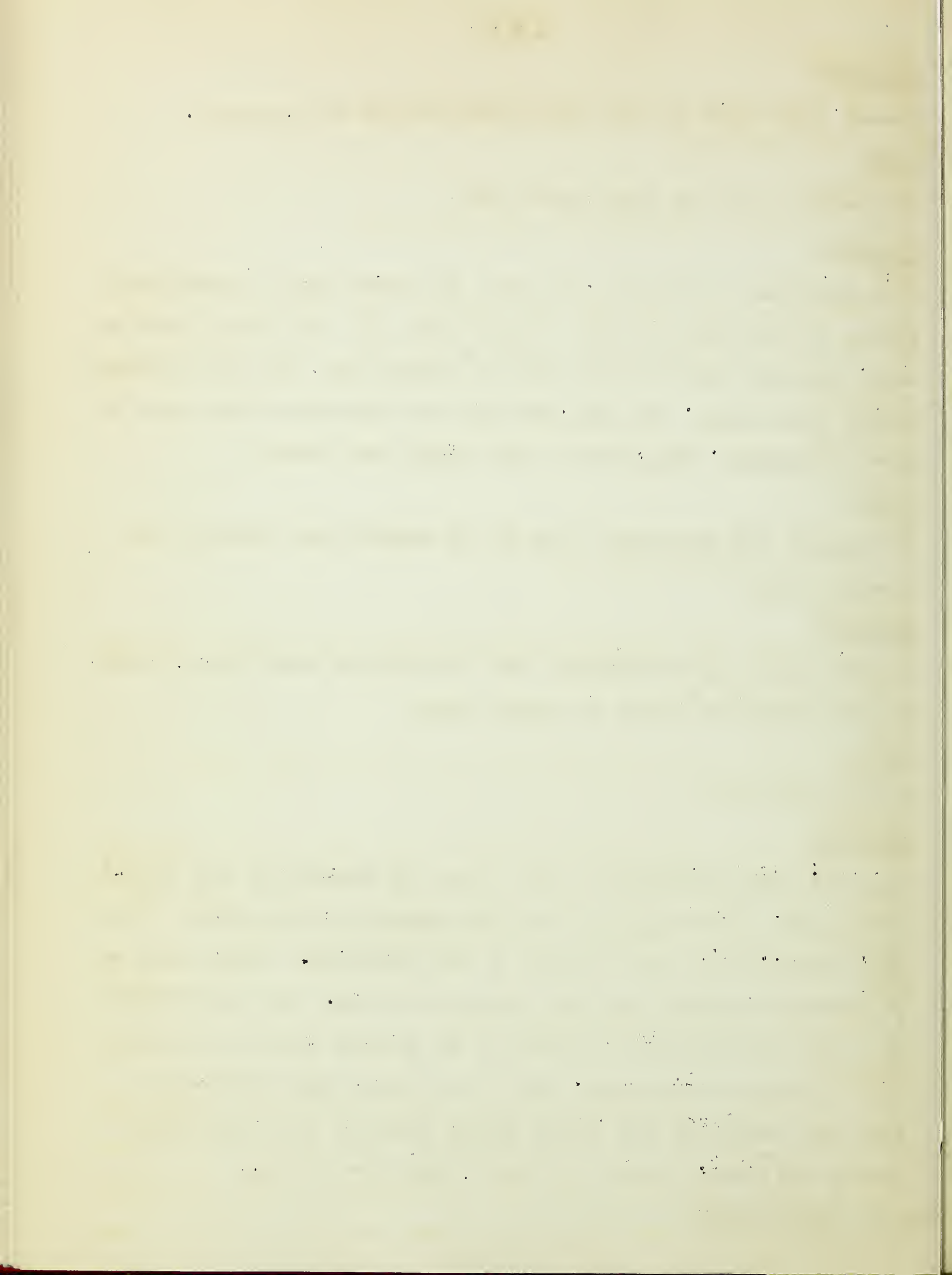
POUND

Did you seed it?

STRADLEY

No, sir! Just plastered it with lime and manure and some 2-12-6 fertilizer. That's going to be good pasture for my cattle. Yes sir, Amsey..you've got to build up the fertility. People told me it couldn't be done, but I've found out it can. You can't build up a hill farm by going fishing, or by sitting around and hoping that a miracle will happen. But if you use a good mixture of lime and fertilizer and common sense, mixed in with some elbow grease and sweat, you can do it. It may take years...

ORGAN: BRIEF BRIDGE



ANNOUNCER

It did take years, but it brought results....

SOUND: Calf bawling...

STRADLEY

That's as fine a yearling as I ever saw, son.

SON

She sure is. Say, dad, when Mr. Kreitler was out here the other day he said something about the livestock show at the theatre... remember?

STRADLEY

Yes...

SON

How about me entering my cow?

STRADLEY

By all means! My, my...it's been nearly 40 years since I won my first prize money.

SON

Gee...cows have done all right for you, haven't they, dad?

STRADLEY

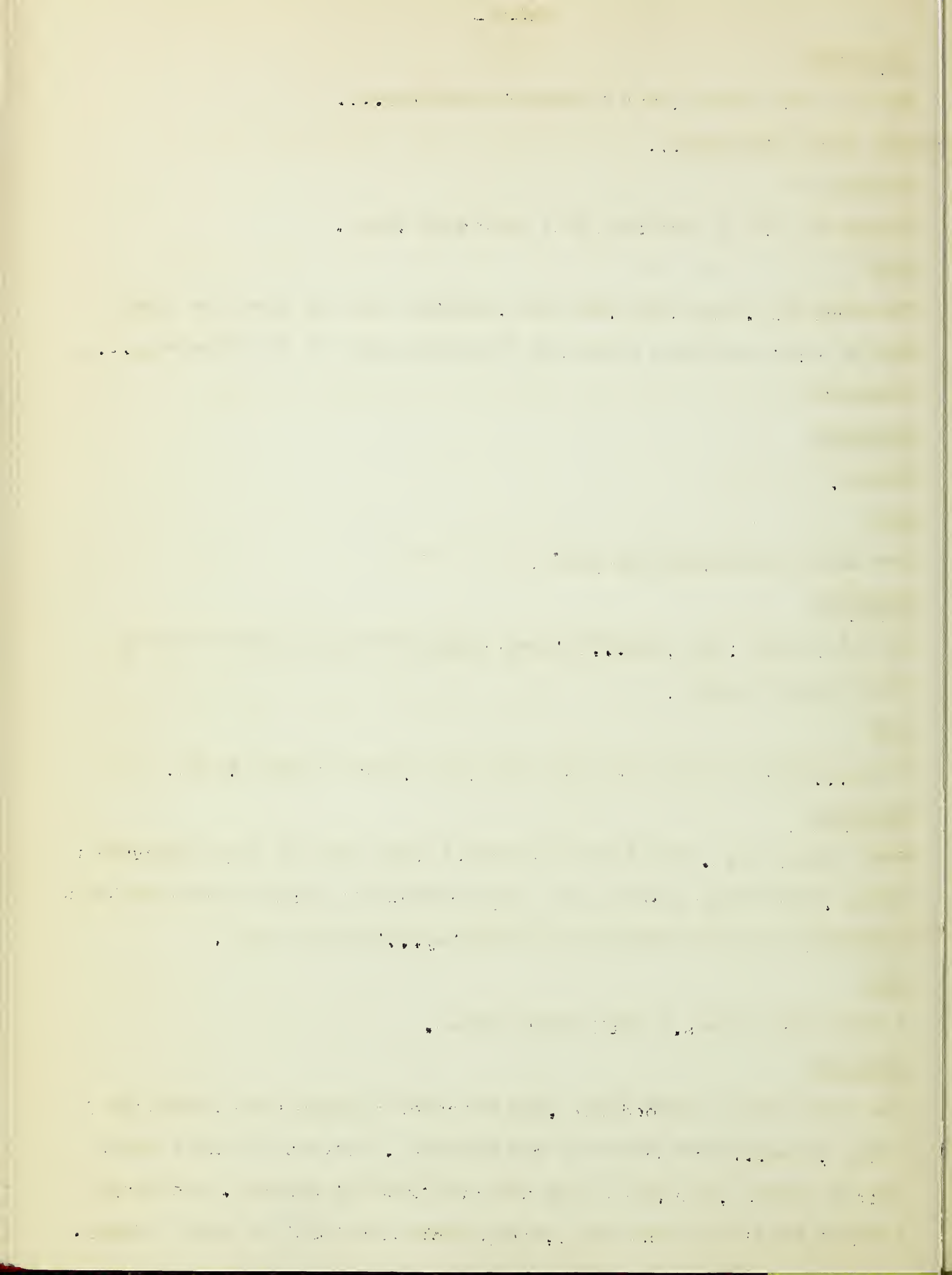
Good cows, son. Good improved stock is the same as good improved land. Good dairy cattle and a good fertility program have made it possible for me to bring up my family...including you.

SON

I like good cows. I like Bossy best.

STRADLEY

She comes from a good line. The ice cream company has raised my base, too...because the cows are better. I've been on this farm for 36 years, son, and I know what I'm talking about. You may be running this farm some day, so pay close attention to what I say.



SON

I'll bet I know what you're going to say. Always got rid of boarder cows.

STRADLEY

That's part of it. But look out over the farm. It's pretty steep...and what do you see?

SON

Well, there's the house, and there's the chicken house...

STRADLEY

I mean the land.

SON

Oh, You mean the pastures, and meadows...

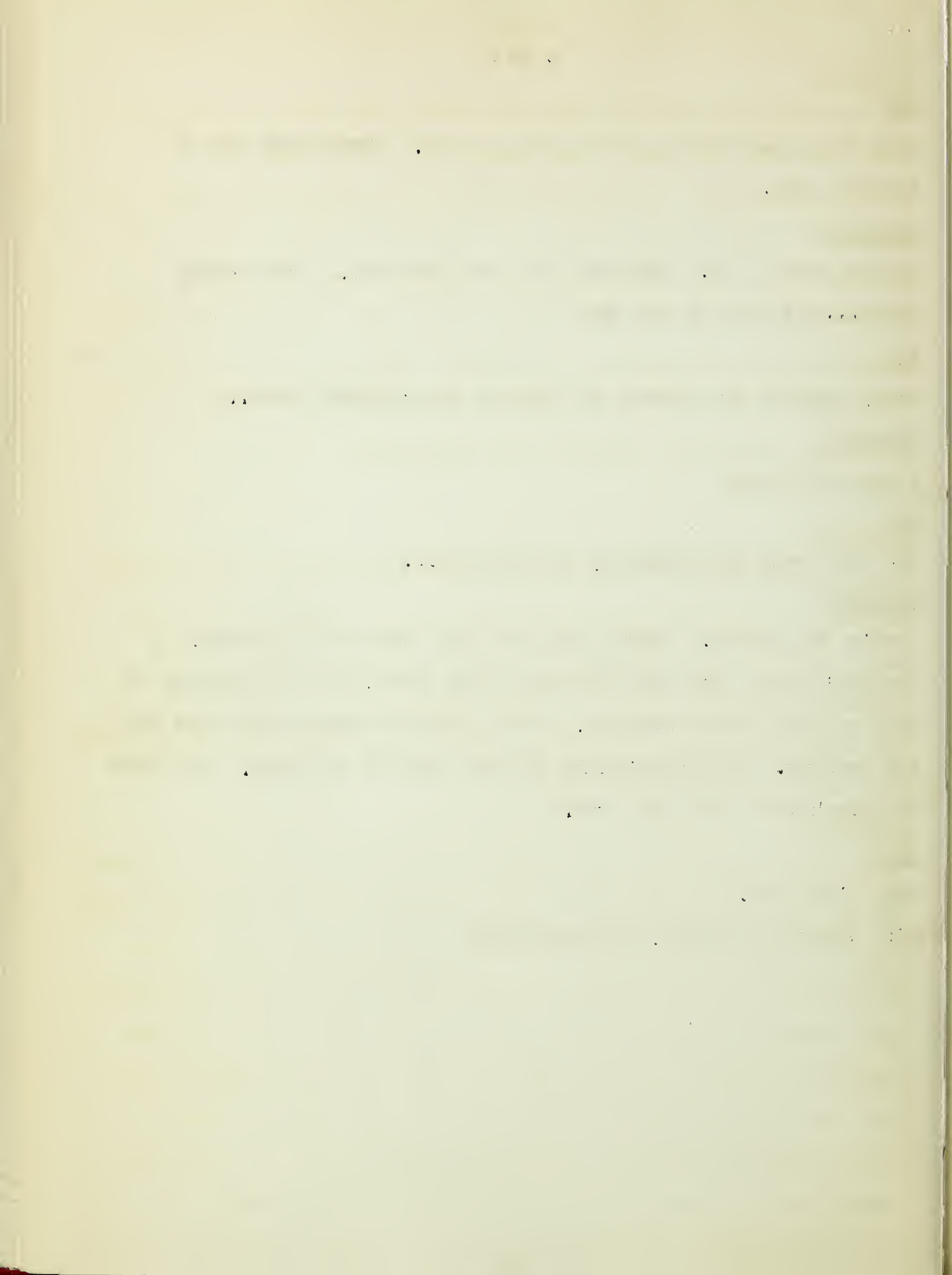
STRADLEY

That's it exactly. These hills are too steep to be plowed. I shouldn't even plow that hillside over there, but I'm plowing it with contour strip cropping, so the alfalfa strips will slow down the washing. But practically all the land is in grass. You have to have hay to feed the cows.

SON

They like corn.

ORGAN: Sneak in AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL



STRADLEY

Yes, but the land doesn't like the corn. Next year I'm going to fill that silo with hay. Oh, son...if you could have seen this land 40 years ago. I've been building it up year after year. I didn't do it for show, either. It was just because I was a poor boy who had to farm hill land. Roe Emerson gave me a start. I gave the land a start. And young fellow, when you farm this land, remember what I'm saying to you today. Take care of the land. If we don't take care of our soil, America will cease to exist as a prosperous nation. We must hold this soil.

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

ANNOUNCER

Today's true story of a farmer who has won the fight against soil erosion, a farmer who has prevented "Fortunes Washed Away", has been that of E. H. Stradley, of Licking County, Ohio. It was presented through the United States Department of Agriculture, by the Soil Conservation Service. And now, the "Eleventh Commandment."

ORGAN: Sneak in DEEP RIVER theme.

ANNOUNCER

"Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, so that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or be destroyed from off the face of the earth."

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

